

JOB DESCRIPTION

City of Patterson



Human Resources

FIREFIGHTER

JOB SUMMARY

*Class specifications are intended to present a descriptive list of the range of duties performed by employees in the class. Specifications are **not** intended to reflect all duties performed within the job.*

The Firefighter position is a “safety” position. The person filling this position will respond to fire alarms, emergency medical calls, traffic accidents, rescue, and other emergency calls to protect life and property; participates in trainings, drills, and independent study activities; participates in the maintenance of fire department apparatus, equipment, and facilities; participates in fire prevention activities and training; performs various staff support assignments; and performs related work as assigned. An individual in this classification must exhibit composure and good situational awareness on emergency scenes in order to effectively respond to, support, and communicate with crews. An individual in this classification must also have the ability to work effectively as part of a unit during emergencies; represent the Department professionally at public service/education events; interact cooperatively with other City and allied agency personnel.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

The Firefighter reports to the Fire Engineer or Fire Captain or in his/her absence, a Division Chief.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

Essential and other important responsibilities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Responds to a wide variety of emergency alarms, such as structural and environmental fires, traffic accidents, natural gas leaks, medical emergencies, and hazardous material spills.

Fights fires under departmental procedures and as directed by a fire company officer; connects and lays hose lines, sets ladders and operates fire streams; uses hand and power tools to ventilate and enter burning structures for the purpose of extinguishing fires and to perform search and rescue operations; raises, lowers, and climbs ladders to enter structures; performs salvage, clean up and overhaul operations during and after fires to remove hazards and protect property.

Provides first responder medical emergency response at the basic life support level, including initial patient and situation assessment, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and trauma emergency medical care; prepares patients and assists paramedics in advanced life support emergency medical care.

Participates in specialized rescue operations, including aerial and underground situations involving the use of rigging and shoring; operates specialized hand and power tools and equipment to rescue traffic accident victims.

Cleans, services, and makes minor repairs to ensure the operational readiness of vehicles, apparatus, hoses and emergency equipment; participates in the cleaning, repair and upkeep of department buildings, grounds, and facilities.

Participates in drills, demonstrations and courses in firefighting techniques, equipment and apparatus operation, medical aid, heavy rescue, hazardous materials, fire prevention, equipment maintenance and a wide variety of other subjects related to the fire service; studies local geography and conditions affecting fire operations; studies and learns departmental operating procedures and policies; studies and learns inspection regulations and fire prevention laws, codes and departmental policies and procedures; studies and learns procedures and techniques for the mitigation of hazardous materials incidents.

Participates in the development and implementation of the department's public education and community outreach programs and activities.

Assists in the inspection of commercial business occupancies; assists in performing follow-up procedures to ensure compliance with Fire Codes, Electrical Codes, Building Codes and state, regional and local codes/ordinances.

Participates in various support assignments, including but not limited to the maintenance of inventory records, scheduled inspections of department equipment, hydrant inspections and maintenance and fire flow testing, the ordering, inventorying and issuance of safety equipment, the preparation and maintenance of department maps and pre-fire plans.

Performs other duties as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of: Basic principles, methods and techniques of fire suppression and prevention; Principles of mathematics, physics, chemistry, and mechanics as they apply to fire science; Principles, practices, and techniques of firefighting and emergency operations, including structural and wild land firefighting, rescue, hazardous materials, and emergency medical care; communications and other equipment; Local area geography, including streets, hydrants, terrain, high life-hazard occupancies, and target hazards; Appropriate usage of EMS/Firefighting equipment for various emergency and non-emergency situations; Standardized Emergency Management and National Incident Management Systems (SEMS/NIMS); Department, local EMS, and County protocols and guidelines regarding patient treatment; Firefighter and EMT responsibilities and duties in accordance with Department operations, standards, and policies and procedures.

Ability to: Read and understand technical materials related to fire science; Understand and follow oral and written instructions; Establish and maintain effective relationships with those encountered in the course of work; Remain calm, make sound decisions, and respond appropriately in emergency and non-emergency situations; Maintain records and prepare clear and concise reports; Maintain physical endurance and agility; Act as a team player with excellent interpersonal skills, effectively interacting with members of the public, City/District staff, and allied agencies; Analyze emergency and non-emergency situations and adopt effective courses of action; Interpret, understand, and carry out City and Department rules and regulations, policies, and procedures; Perform all Firefighter and medical techniques and procedures.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Must be 21 years of age or older.

Must be a non-tobacco user.

Must successfully pass a pre-employment medical examination and background check, including a drug screen, fingerprint, and reference check.

Must be able to provide proof of U.S. citizenship or legal right to work in the United States.

EXPERIENCE AND CERTIFICATIONS

A typical way of obtaining the knowledge, skills and abilities outlined above is a High School Diploma or G.E.D. equivalent, supplemented by college-level course work in fire science; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Education: Possession of a high school diploma or GED.

License or Certificate:

Possession of a current California Driver's License, Class C. Firefighter endorsement to be obtained by the end of the probationary period, to be maintained as a condition of employment.

Current National Registry or State of California EMT license

Current CPAT certification (within past 12 months)

Firefighter 1 certification (California State Fire Training), or graduation from a California State Fire Marshal's accredited Firefighter I Academy, or possess 12 college credits from a Regionally Accredited Fire Technology/Fire Science college or university level program and successfully complete the Firefighter Academy once hired.

Stanislaus County Emergency Medical Service Agency accreditation within sixty (60) days of appointment

Current CPR / AED for healthcare providers or BLS

Hazardous Materials, First Responder Operations (FRO) Certified

ICS 200 certification

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

Environmental Conditions:

While performing the duties of this job the employee occasionally works outdoors. This may include occasional exposure to wet, humid, hot, and inclement weather conditions. The employee may work near moving mechanical parts, under hazardous, life-threatening conditions, such as, but not limited to,

heights, confined spaces, temperature extremes, crowds, loud noises, limited visibility, in the presence of hazardous materials, in the presence of victims of death and/or dismemberment. The employee must work effectively as a team member and/or leader of a fire company, communicate professionally with peers and superiors, one-on-one and in groups.

Physical Conditions:

While performing the duties of this job, the employee is frequently required to use hands to finger, handle or feel objects, tools, or controls. The employee is occasionally required to stand, walk, sit, or reach with hands and arms, climb or balance, stoop, kneel, crouch, crawl, jog or run.

The employee must occasionally lift and/or move up to 75 pounds without assistance and up to 300 pounds with assistance.

Specific vision abilities required by this job include close vision, distance vision, color vision, peripheral vision, depth perception, and the ability to adjust focus.

The employee must have the ability to: drive vehicles, operate a personal computer, read small print on documents and maps, detect subtle shades of color, hear and speak well enough to communicate over the telephone, radio and in person at distances up to 50 feet over noise of equipment; must be physically fit enough to carry fire equipment as needed, walk over rough terrain, climb hills, open and close heavy gates, load and unload vehicles, and work outdoors for long periods of time in all types of weather conditions; safely wear and work in a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) without medical or physical restrictions; stamina to meet physical and mental demands during an extended emergency.

Working Conditions

Must be willing and have the ability to work such hours as are necessary to accomplish the job requirements, remain awake for long periods of time (including 24 hour periods) under strenuous situations, remain on call 24 hours a day, attend classes, meetings, seminars, and conferences during or after work hours, travel out of town or out of state for several days at a time, work under adverse conditions such as those inherent in emergency firefighting situations, consistently follow through with duties/assignments and work harmoniously with subordinates and superiors, wear approved uniform; consistently and properly wear all appropriate PPE; report for work on a regular, consistent basis and maintain an acceptable attendance record in accordance with City policy.

FLSA Status: Non-Exempt

Revised: May 2025